

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 02446 140943Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 EA-07 FRB-03

IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /136 W

----- 130657

R 140845Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM

REF: OSLO 2342

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY FRYDENLUND MAY 11 FRYDENLUND SAID THAT NORWAY PLANS TO ADHERE TO THE IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM BUT WITH RESERVATION ON CHAPTER 5 OF THE LTP. HE SAID NORWEGIANS PLAN TO PRESENT THEIR POSITION AT THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MAY 20-21 AND TO SEEK STORTING (PARLIAMENTARY) ENDORSEMENT LATER TO ASSURE ADHERENCE IS SEEN AS CONXWSTENT WITH NORWAY'S OIL POLICY.

2. OTHER SOURCES HAVE ADDED THAT NORWEGIAN CABINET HAS APPROVED NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO LTP AT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING BUT INSISTED ON FORMAL RESERVATION WHICH WOULD SET FORTH NORWEGIAN INTERPRETATION OF CHAPTER V AS NOT CIRCUMSCRIBING OR CONFLICTING WITH NORWEGIAN OIL POLICY. MERE STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT (SEE REFTEL) AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED WAS NOT CONSIDERED
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PAGE 02 OSLO 02446 140943Z

ADEQUATE. RESERVATION WILL BE ENTERED NOT TO HEDGE

NORWAY'S PARTICIPATION BUT SIMPLY TO PROVIDE SOMETHING TO ASSURE THOSE IN NORWAY WHO OPPOSE ADHERENCE TO THE LTP THAT CHAPTER V DOES NOT PREJUDICE NORWAY'S RIGHT TO CARRY OUT ITS OWN POLICIES. IT IS ALSO CONSIDERED MEANS OF HEADING OFF EXPECTED DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF ADHERENCE.

3. ON PROCEDURAL SIDE, NORWEGIAN DELEGATION AT GOVERNING BOARD NEXT WEEK WILL STATE THAT REPORT ON NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO LTP WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT. REPORT WILL NOT RPT NOT SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF ADHERENCE AS GOVERNMENT CONTENDS THIS IS NOT NECESSARY NOR CUSTOMARY. UNLESS PARLIAMENT OPPOSES LTP ADHERENCE, GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER ITS ADHERENCE TO BE EFFECTIVE NEXT WEEK AT GOVERNING BOARD. HOWEVER, PARLIAMENT HAS PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN FORMULATING NORWAY'S OIL POLICY AND THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON ADHERENCE.

4. THIS PROCEDURE RUNS THE RISK OF STRONG CRITICISM OF THE IEA AND NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO THE LTP FROM IEA OPPONENTS ON THE FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES LTP ADHERENCE WOULD WIN A MAJORITY IF PUT TO A VOTE SO LONG AS THE RESERVATION IS ATTACHED SINCE BOTH THE LABOR AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES FAVOR IT. REPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO PARLIAMENT ASAP BUT IS UNLIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY PARLIAMENT UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

5. EXACT WORDING OF RESERVATION AND STATEMENT TO GOVERNING BOARD ON SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON ADHERENCE TO PARLIAMENT HAVE NOT BEEN FORMULATED. HOWEVER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND HAS ENDORSED GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS. CABINET IS NOT EXPECTED TO MEET AGAIN BEFORE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WILL PROBABLY STILL SEEK PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL OF TEXTS OF RESERVATION AND STATEMENT TO GOVERNING BOARD ON SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON ADHERENCE TO PARLIAMENT. SUBSEQUENT CABINET APPROVAL IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY. WHILE THERE MAY NOT BE TIME TO CONSULT WITH IEA OFFICIALS BEFORE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROMISED A COPY OF TEXTS OF RESERVATION AND STATEMENT AND WILL TRANSMIT THEM TO ADDRESSEES OF THIS CABLE AS SOON AS RECEIVED.
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PAGE 03 OSLO 02446 140943Z

ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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